

A report from your Legislature

State Representative **Mike Sells**

2008 Session Report to the 38th District

April, 2008

Dear Friends,

Over four-thousand bills were introduced throughout the length of the session, and by the time it came to its end on March 13, we had passed 341.

We did important work, but I am also disappointed that despite my efforts and those of my colleagues, the bill (HB 2548) that would authorize the University of Washington to open a branch campus in Everett didn't make it through this year. But we made progress and I will continue fighting because I am certain that having a university in our region will benefit not only our students, but many people in the entire state.

As you know, this was a supplemental budgets year. I am pleased to inform you that this year's budgets approved by the Legislature expanded the important investments we made in 2007 in areas like health care, education, the environment and housing, but we were also able to save \$834 million in total reserves.

Inside this newsletter you'll find information on what the 2008 Legislature focused on in my three committee areas, but first I want to take this opportunity to thank those of you who sent back your responses to the survey Rep. John McCoy and I mailed out at the beginning of the year.

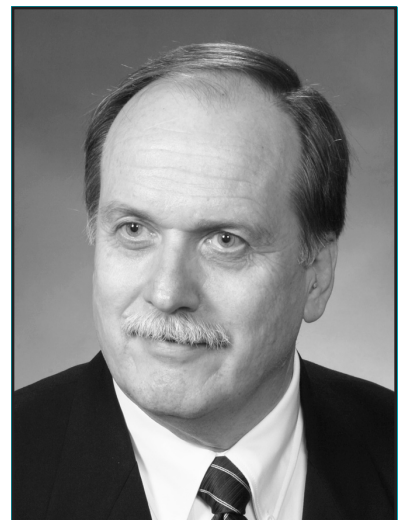
Knowing where you stand on key issues helps me represent you better, that's why I value your responses and comments. In my decision-making when it came to policy this session, I took into account what I learned from the survey on how you feel about education, health care, the economy and transportation.

And I also want to thank all of you who contacted my office by phone, email and regular mail with your concerns or even suggestions and ideas, please continue to do so.

Best regards,



Mike
State Representative
38th Legislative District



State Representative **Mike Sells**

District Office:

Everett Labor Temple
2812 Lombard Avenue
Suite 210
Everett WA 98201
(425) 257-2168

Olympia Office:

132B Legislative Bldg.
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
(360) 786-7840

Toll-free Hotline:

1-800-562-6000

TTY (hearing impaired):

1-800-635-9993

Email: sells.mike@leg.wa.gov

Website: <http://www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/sells/>

House Committees:

Higher Education, *Vice-Chair*
Capital Budget
Transportation

2008 Legislative accomplishments in Higher Education

This session we passed numerous bills that will make very tangible differences to students statewide. Highlights include:

Higher education

child care (HB 2582), which will expand the availability of childcare on campuses throughout the state.



Performance agreements (HB 2641) that set a performance-audit process for the state's four-year colleges and universities. This measuring system will reassure taxpayers that our institutions of higher education are meeting the goals established by the Legislature.

Transfer & articulation (HB 2783)

this is the "Student Bill of Rights" that will make it easier and efficient to transfer courses from one college in the state to another.



Campus security (SB 6328/HB 2648)

which will carry out policies and procedures for preventing and responding to violent incidents on college campuses while ensuring communication with students, faculty and staff.

Veterans waivers (SB 6371)

which clarifies eligibility requirements of tuition waivers for families of eligible veterans and National Guard members.



2008 Legislative accomplishments in Transportation

Even though this was a supplemental budget year, we made important adjustments in the \$7.5 billion 2007-09 transportation budget. Highlights include:

Nickel and Transportation Partnership Account projects (projects funded from 2003 and 2005 tax increases)

Despite a \$1.8 billion shortfall caused by rising costs and reduced state and federal tax revenue, we managed to keep the 400+ projects authorized by the 2003 and 2005 revenue packages on track in the 16 year construction plan.

Mega projects – Alaskan Way Viaduct and 520 Bridge

- The Viaduct replacement project is moving ahead on schedule. Six projects totaling \$915 million at the north and south ends of the corridor are underway.



- A design agreement has been reached on the 520 bridge replacement project, along with a finance plan. Governor Gregoire recently announced that the bridge will be completed by 2014,

that's a full four years earlier than planned, and this sped-up schedule will shave \$100 to \$300 million off the price tag.

Be sure to visit my website at

www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/sells/

where you'll find information on issues that matter to our community.



The Ferry System

Safe, affordable, and predictable service is our top priority for the ferry system. We face long-term challenges in keeping the nation's largest ferry system viable and affordable. This session we developed a five-point reform plan to restore confidence in the ferry system:

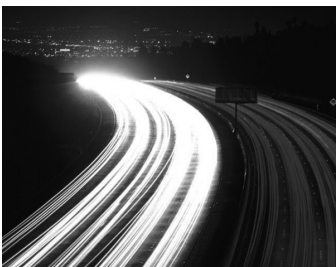


- 1) Control Costs
- 2) Overhaul Management
- 3) Focus on Service and Safety
- 4) Build for the future – the right vessels and the right terminals
- 5) Accountability

We're addressing the imminent vessel crisis by appropriating \$368 million for 6 new vessels, the first of which will be delivered in March, 2009. Two more slightly larger vessels will be delivered in 2010. The first 144-car vessel will be delivered in 2010, and the other two in 2011. We also managed to keep fares frozen at least through September, 2009.

Safety

- US 2 – Despite having no new revenue to invest in major congestion and safety improvements in this corridor, the budget invests \$15 million in safety projects designed to reduce cross-over and head-on collisions; and additional State Troopers will patrol the corridor.



- I-5 concrete barriers at Marysville to reduce crossover accidents (\$27 million)
- Aurora Avenue Bridge suicide prevention fence (\$7.5 million)

Watch for important Transportation Projects in the 38th District:

- I-5/SR 526 to Marine View Drive-Add HOV lanes
- I-5/41st St Interchange-Widening and Rebuild Ramps
- E. Marine View Drive Widening

2008 Legislative accomplishments in Housing

We believe everyone deserves a safe, affordable home, so this session we worked on housing measures that will benefit thousands of Washingtonians, including:

Manufactured/mobile home park preservation (HB 1621)

I co-sponsored this bill which will create a tax incentive to encourage mobile/manufactured home park owners

to voluntarily sell communities to eligible tenant organizations, or other entities committed to preserving them as affordable housing options



Rapid Response Fund Revolving Loan Program (HB 3142)

This program will provide grants and low-interest loans through a flexible pot of funds to preserve or increase affordable housing in rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods, including manufactured/mobile home park communities.



2008 Legislative accomplishments in Capital Budget

This year we allocated capital budget funds to key areas, such as:

Skills Centers

The 2008 Supplemental Capital Budget invests over \$5.1 million in vocational skills centers by expanding capacity at current sites and exploring the feasibility of additional ones.

Housing

Developing and preserving affordable housing continues to be a priority. The Housing Trust Fund was increased by \$70 million. Total for the biennium is \$200 million.

Flood Assistance

\$54.5 million in funds for catastrophic flood relief in the wake of the December 2007 flood, as well as flood mitigation and prevention.

Higher Education - campus safety

\$1.2 million for Community and Technical College campus mapping, as well as to conduct a needs analysis and fiscal impact study of potential college and university campus security enhancements.

Culvert replacements

\$5 million to replace culverts that obstruct fish passage.

2007-2008 Capital Budget Projects in the 38th District

Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction

Sno-Isle Skills Center.....23,161,000

State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

Everett Community College: Index Hall Replacement.....2,800,000
 Everett Community College: University Center - North Puget Sound....40,604,000
 Everett Community College (Facility Preservation)804,335
 Everett Community College (Roof Repairs).....903,465
 Everett Community College (Minor Works Program)587,900
 Everett Community College (Minor Works Preservation).....311,100

Department of Community, Trade & Economic Development

YMCA of Snohomish County, Everett.....275,000
 City of Everett - Senior Ctr Expansion and Upgrade.....400,000
 City of Everett Minor League Baseball - Aquasox433,000
 Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center650,000
 Cliff Bailey Center - North End Roof.....302,000

Washington State Historical Society

The Tulalip Tribe (Heritage).....1,000,000

Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation

Qwuloolt Estuary Restoration and Trail.....499,000

Total 2007-2008 38th Legislative District 72,730,800